

an elastic band, having a pair of elastic band ends;
synthetic hair fibers, collectively having a pair of
synthetic hair fiber ends; and

a' equal
wherein one [each] of the elastic band ends is permanently
joined with one of the synthetic hair fiber ends and the other of
the elastic band ends is permanently joined with the other of the
synthetic fiber ends so that the elastic bands and synthetic hair
fibers together form a closed loop.

Remarks

Claims 1-5 are pending in the application. Claims 4-5 are
allowed. Claim 3 is objected to. Claims 1-2 have been rejected
under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Naidor in view
of Brown.

In a telephonic interview conducted with the Examiner on
October 16 and 17, 2000, the relevance of Naidor to the
patentability of claims 1 and 2 was discussed. An agreement was
reached that amending claim 1 to recited that one of the elastic
band ends is permanently joined with one of the synthetic hair
ends, and that the other of the elastic band ends is permanently
joined with the other of the synthetic fiber ends would help
clarify the claims and ensure that they do not inadvertantly read
upon Naidor. Accordingly, such amendment is made herein.

In view of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-5 should now be